K-6

Levi Rogers House

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 12-02-2019

Levi Rogers, Junior House 202 S. Water Street Chestertown, Maryland Mid-18th century

Levi Rogers, Junior, a free African-American, purchased this house from Thomas Cuff in 1857, but it is possibly an 18th century house, one of the four bequeathed by Dr. William Murray to his then spinster daughters in 1768, and described in his will as the "house at Front and Cannon Streets wherein Edward Scanlon now lives." 65/ Dr. Murray's daughters sold to the Ringgolds, who sold to Richard Snowden Thomas in 1808. He gave Lot 5 to his daughter, Deborah Wright, who died while her son was still a minor. His trustees then sold part of the property to Isaac Cannell, who had also bought the Hynson-Ringgold house, as well as part of Lot Number 5. Connell sold the western half of the lot, on part of which this house is located, to Thomas Cuff, a free African-American in 1820.

The house is a story and a half frame house with lap siding and a brick foundation. Three bays front directly on the street, with a central doorway, a 2/2 sash window on each side, and two 2/2 sash dormer windows above. The house possibly had chimneys at each end, but both are gone. That on the east side has been replaced by a small chimney for use with a stove. There are two rooms across the front, divided by the staircase, which rises from the back of the house with an entry from the triangular lowest step to both first floor rooms.

One large room stretches across the rear, probably added or converted from a porch. A wall of unpainted, wide, beaded boards, laid horizontally and flush to each other separates the rear from the front rooms. This treatment is sometimes found on

the inside walls of porches. Very little interior trim remains, except a closet door on the second floor, which is mortised and pinned with wood pegs.

The house has been vacant for several years and is in a deteriorated condition.

Levi Rogers Junior and Richard Jones, another free African-American bought part of Cuff's waterfront property 66/ which they sold in 1857 to Captain James F. Taylor, 67/ the President and Director of the Eastern Shore Steamboat Company. Capt. Taylor soon built the Italianate mansion with the belvedere that remains on the southwest corner of Cannon and Water.

Rogers operated a saloon on this corner in the late I850's, possibly in this building or one nearer the corner of Cannon Street.

After selling to Captain Taylor, Rogers and Jones agreed to divide the remainder of the land they had held in common and bought from Thomas Cuff. 68/ They retained the right-of-way from Captain Taylor to bring their cattle and teams by way of the road by his property.

Levi Rogers, Jr. died in 1865 and left his property to his uncle Levi Rogers of Gloucester Co., NJ who sold it to Frederick Nichols in 1875. 69/ The Ringgolds had built a brick stable on this corner, which was torn down by Nichols. A Victorian House now stands on that corner. The former stable may have been Rogers' saloon, with his own house the remaining story and one half.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey	No.	K-6
Magi N	٥.	
DOE	ves	no

1. Nam	e (indicate p	referred name)		
historic	Levi Rogers, Jun	ior		
and/or common		Same		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	202	∡ Water Street		not for publication
city, town Che	estertown	vicinity of	congressional district	First
state	Maryland	county	Kent	
3. Clas	sification			
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considerednot_applicable	Status occupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted X no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park x private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	_	nd mailing addresse	es of <u>all</u> owners)
name	Vincent Ramou			
street & number	700 Snuff Mill		•	o.: (302) 655-1111
city, town	Centreville	state	and zip code	DE 19807
5. Loca	ation of Leg	gal Description	on	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	ent County Courthous	e	liber JFG 4
street & number	Cross Street			folio 353
city, town	Chestertown		state	MD
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surv	<i>r</i> eys
title	None			
date			federal sta	te county loca
pository for s	urvey records			
city, town			state	

Condition excellent _X_ deterior good ruins fair unexpo	_x_ altered	Check one X original site moved date of move	

Survey No. K-6

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

7. Description

this story and a half, three-bay frame house belonged in the mid-19th century to Levi Rogers, Jr., who operated a saloon there. The house probably has 18th century origin, nowever.

Levi Rogers, a free African-American, purchased this nouse from Thomas Cuft in 1857, but it is possibly an 18th century house, one of the four bequeathed by Dr. William Murray to his then spinster daughters in 1768, and described in his will as, the "house at Front and Cannon Streets wherein Edward Scanlon now lives."

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One large room stretches across the rear, probably added or converted from a porch. A wall of unpainted, wide, beaded boards, laid horizontally and flush to each other separates the rear from the front rooms. This treatment is sometimes found of the inside walls of porches.

Very little interior trim remains, except a closet door on the second floor, which is mortised and pinned with wood pegs.

the house has been vacant for several years and is in a deteriorated condition.

<u>8. S</u>	ignificance		Survey No.	K-6
Period prehi 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900-	-1499 archeology-historic -1599 agriculture -1699 _X architecture -1799 art -1899 commerce	community planning	law literature military music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific	dates	Builder/Architect		
check:	Applicable Criteria:A and/or Applicable Exception:A	A _B _C _D _1		
	Level of Significance:	_nationalstate	<u>X</u> local	
Prepare	both a summary paragraph o	of significance and	a general statement	of history and

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Levi Rogers, Junior, nouse retains some traces of its 18th century origin. It is significant as the mia-19th century property of two free African-Americans wno operated a saloon there.

This building probably dates from the mia-lath century, judging from the remaining architectural traces and the land records. It is one of the four remaining houses on original town Lot Number 5 with a style that could date from the eighteenth century. Dr. William Murray, the owner of the Hynson-Ringgold House, bequeathed each of his four immarried daughters a house on Lot 5 in his will of 1768 and this is probably one of them.

. Murray's daughters sold to the Ringgolds, who sold to Richard Snowden Thomas in 1808. He gave Lot 5 to his daughter, Deborah Wright, who died while her son was still a minor. His trustees then sold part of the property to Isaac Connell, who had also bought the Hynson-Ringgold house, as well as part of Lot Number 5. Connell sold the western half of the lot, on part of which this house is located, to Thomas Cuff, a free African-American in 1820, Cuff subsequently owned the southwest side of Cannon Street and Water Street along the river.

Levi Rogers Junior and Richard Jones, free African-Americans, bought part of Cutf's property including the waterfront in front of this house, and in 1857 sold the waterfront portion to Captain James F. Taylor, the President and Director of the Eastern Shore Steamboat Company. Capt. Taylor soon thereafter built the Italianate mansion with the belvedere that remains on the southwest corner of Cannon and Water.

Rogers operated a saloon on this corner in the late 1850's, possibly in this building or one nearer the corner of Cannon Street.

After selling to Captain Taylor, Rogers and Jones agreed to divide the remainder of the land they had held in common and bought from Thomas Luft. They retained the right-ot-way from Laptain Taylor to bring their cattle and teams by way of the road by his property.

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Major Bibliographical References

K-6 Survey No.

Kent County Land Records and Wills

10. Geographic	cal Data			-	•
Acreage of nominated property Quadrangle name UTM References do NOT comp			Qu	adrangle scale	
<u> </u>	thing	B Zone	Easting	Northing	
C		D			
Verbal boundary description a	nd justification				"
List all states and counties for	properties ove	rlapping state or	county boun	daries code	
state	code	county		code	·
11. Form Prepa	red By				
name/title Davy H. McCa	11			······	<u></u>
organization Historical Soc	iety of Kent	County	date +	ebruary 21, 19	96
street & number thurch Alle	у		telephone 4	110-778-3499	
city or town Chestertown			state	4D	

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information, and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

MARYLAND FOR CONCINUAL TRUST

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

100 CC VIDENTY PLACE **CROWNSVILLE AND 21039-2023** -514-7300

HISTORIC CONTEXT

K-6 LEVI ROGERS, JUNIOR HOUSE

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization

1) Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period

9) Rural Agrarian Intensification 1680-1815
 10) Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870

Historic Period Themes

- 2) Architecture
- 7) Social/Cultural

Resource Type

Category - Building, private, public acquisition - not applicable, unoccupied, not accessible, private residence

Historic Environment - Village

Historic Functions and Uses - dwelling/saloon

Unknown Design Source



Levi Rogers, Junior House K-6
SE facade
M. Bourne
Spring, 1905

Levi Rodgers House Water Street, Chestertown c.1740

The Levi Rodgers House is located at 202 Front Street on Lot No. 5 of the plat of Chestertown. While it appears to have been remodeled around 1830-40 and enlarged around the turn of the century, its original 18th century form remains evident. Its origins were confirmed when whitewashed shiplap siding secured with rosehead wrought nails was revealed when a portion of the back wall was exposed. Also, the roof structure had been found to be constructed of common rafters laid on the flat sides, similar to Carvill Hall (c. 1695) and the Reward (c. 1740). Its current plan with addition consists primarily of four rooms on each floor with an enclosed stair between the two front rooms and a vestibule directly beneath. The front portion of the Levi Rodgers House may indeed be the tenement which was bequeathed by Dr. William Murray to his daughter Ann in 1768 and which was described as the house "wherein Charles Brunningin now lives."

1.

Perhaps most interestingly, the house was apparently used as a gathering place for 19th century oyster lovers. As owner and occupant in the 2nd quarter of the 19th Century, Levi Rodgers, a free black man, advertised his business in the Kent News several times.

Yab "OYSTERS!!

The subscriber respectfully informed the public generally that he has the

 neatly fitted up, just below the residence of James E. Baroll, Esq., and is prepared to serve up OYSTERS in the best manner. Also Terrapins, in season; oysters by the gallon, & c. Gentlemen wishing to partake of these delecacies, will have every attention paid them by

the public's ob't serv't

✓ LEVI RODGERS

March 9, '49 -

N. B. He is also prepared to BROIL OYSTERS—this is a superior way of cooking them."

After Rodgers' death, his widow and daughter continued to advertise in the Kent News at the same location.

1. Wills, Lib. 4, fol. 352.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi	No.	
DOE	yes	nc

1. Nam	le (indicate pr	referred name)		
historic				
and/or common	Levi Rogers	House (One-and-	One Half Story	Dwelling)
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	202	Front Street		not for publication
city, town	Chestertown	vicinity of	congressional district	1
state Man	ryland	county	Kent	
3. Clas	sification			
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public X private both Public Acquisition in process being considered not applicable	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park _X_ private residence religious scientific transportation other:
	er of Prope	rty (give names a	nd mailing address	es of <u>all</u> owners)
street & number			telephone	no.:
city, town		state	and zip code	
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Description	on	
courthouse, regi	istry of deeds, etc.			liber
street & number				folio
city, town			state	
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Sur	veys
title				
date			federal st	ate county loca
pository for s	urvey records			
city, town			state	

					
Condition excellent yellow good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unalteredX altered	Check one X original s moved	site date of move	

Survey No. K-6

7. Description

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This building appears to date from the early 19th century, and contains important interior architectural features, such as 4 and 6 raised-panel doors, original flooring and tightunder stair (with communication to the two principal downstairs rooms. While the interior shows some water damage due, in all probability, to roof and flashing problems, it appears to be in good condition structurally.

8. Sig	nificance		Survey No. K-6	
_ 1600–169 1700–179 _X_ 1800–189	archeology-historic agriculture agriculture architecture art commerce	community planning conservation	iterature military music philosophy politics/government	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific date	es	Builder/Architect		
Ap	plicable Criteria:A and/or plicable Exception:A vel of Significance:	BCDI		
	th a summary paragraph c			history and

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-6

10. Geograph	hical Data		
Acreage of nominated propert Quadrangle name UTM References do NOT c	<u> </u>		Quadrangle scale
Zone Easting	Northing	B Zone	Easting Northing
C		D	
Verbal boundary description	on and justification		
liet all states and sountin		ulouping state or	
List all states and countie	s for properties ove	rlapping state or county	county boundaries code
state	code	county	code
state 11. Form Pre	code code	county	code
state 11. Form Pre name/title Mark R.	code code	county county Director -	code
state 11. Form Pre name/title Mark R. organization Maryla	code code pared By Edwards/Deputy	county county Director - Trust	code code Deputy SHPO

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K-6 202 Front Street, Chestertown

Mark R. Edwards - photographer December 10, 1986 - date photo taken Maryland Historical Trust - location of negative



TI

K-6 202 Front Street, Chestertown

Mark R. Edwards - photographer December 10, 1986 - date photo taken Maryland Historical Trust - location of negative K-% Levi Rogers' House

early 19th century ?

Chestertown

private

This building is a handsome representative of late 18th and early 19th century taste in moderate frame residential buildings. It is a/2-story cataline which makes an interesting comparison with two houses of similar overall conception, the Church Alley Store (K-28) and the dwelling at 200 Calvert Street (K-63). The record of its ownership disappears at about the time of the Civil War.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME				
HISTORIC	es' House		K-la	
AND/OR COMMON	7003 170 WAZ		χ G	
2 LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER				
202 Front Stre	et		CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	UCT
Chestertown		VICINITY OF	First	
STATE Maryland			COUNTY Kent	
3 CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	*-OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X∃K BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE	x⊃ RIVATE BOTH	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL ,EDUCATIONAL	PARKPRIVATE RESIDENC
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	_WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	YES. RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		-x ^N 0	MILITARY	_OTHER
4 OWNER O	FPROPERTY			
NAME Char les W. Cape	91		Telephone #: nor	ne
STREET & NUMBER 202 Front Stree	et			
CITY. TOWN Chestertown				ip code
<u> </u>		VICINITY OF	Maryland 216	520
5 LOCATION	NOF LEGAL DESCR	APTION	Liber #: WHG 55	5
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC. Office of the Count	y Clerk	Folio #: ²³⁷	
STREET & NUMBER	Kent County Court H	louse		
CITY, TOWN	Chestertown		STATE Maryland	
6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TITLE	no ne			
DATE		FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	



K-6

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

X_EXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED

_UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

__GOOD

__UNEXPOSED

__RUINS

__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

202 Front Street is located on the northeast side of Front Street, one house below the intersection of Front and Cannon Streets in Chestertown. It is situated on a part of Town Lot 5 on the Original Plot of Chestertown, 1730.

It is a 3-bay, $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story frame dwelling with a 2-story leanto addition. The house is sided with wood clapboard and sits on a very low brick foundation. The entrance is in the southwest (left) bay. All four windows on the facade are 2/2 double hung sash, those on the first floor have louvered shutters. Both the door and window frames are beaded.

There is a plain box cornice. There are two gabled dormers on the roof, which is covered with composition shingles. There is one chinney within the northeast (right) gable end. The leanto begins slightly below the peak of the prakkefokkex roof. There is a 1-story shed attached to the rear of the leanto.

8 SIGNIFICANCE



PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X _1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
COECIEIC DAT	se comire 10th contur	v ? BUIL DER/ARCI	HITECT unknown	
SPECIFIC DAT	ES early 19th centur	BUILDER/ARCI	THECH UHAHOWH	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is a handsome representative of late 18th and early 19th century taste in modest residential buildings and makes an interesting comparison with two houses of similar overall conception, the restored store/dwelling at 106 Court Street in Chestertown and the dwelling at 200 Calvert, also in Chestertown. The records of its ownership disappear at about the time of the Civil War. Its earliest known owners were Rogers, a black family who may have been free before the war. They held it through several genrations until their last owner, Levi Rogers, moved to Gloucester County, New Jersey and sold it through an attorney to Susan Coleman, a white woman, in 1875. It remained in the Coleman family until 1946, when Annie M. Coleman sold it mix to James E. Batchelor whose widow, Louise V. Batchelor sold it to its present owner in 1958.

STATE

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEI	PARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY	
10 GEOGRAPHICA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED F	0 7 2020	
of the lot now owned by there running by and wi in a northeasterly dire by and with the said C lands now of Helen E.	point where the southeast corner y Edna C. Powell corners on the ith the land of Edna Powell and ection 90 feet more or less to otton lands in a southwesterly Dwyer; thence by and with the s	hwest side of Front Street and south r of the lot and the southwest corner northwesterly side of Front Street, the lands now of Norma F. Tomlinson the lands now of John B. Cotton; thence direction 30 feet more or less to the aid Dwyer lands in a southeasterly ide of Front St; thence in a north-
LIST ALL STATES	AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAND	PPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
easterly direction 30 :	feet more or less to the place county	of beginning.
STATE	COUNTY	
11 FORM PREPAR NAME/ FITLE Robert Neill Hist	ED BY	
ORGANIZATION	The state of the s	DATE
Maryland Historica	l Trust/ Town of Chestertown	Feburary, 1976
STREET & NUMBER	,	TELEPHONE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

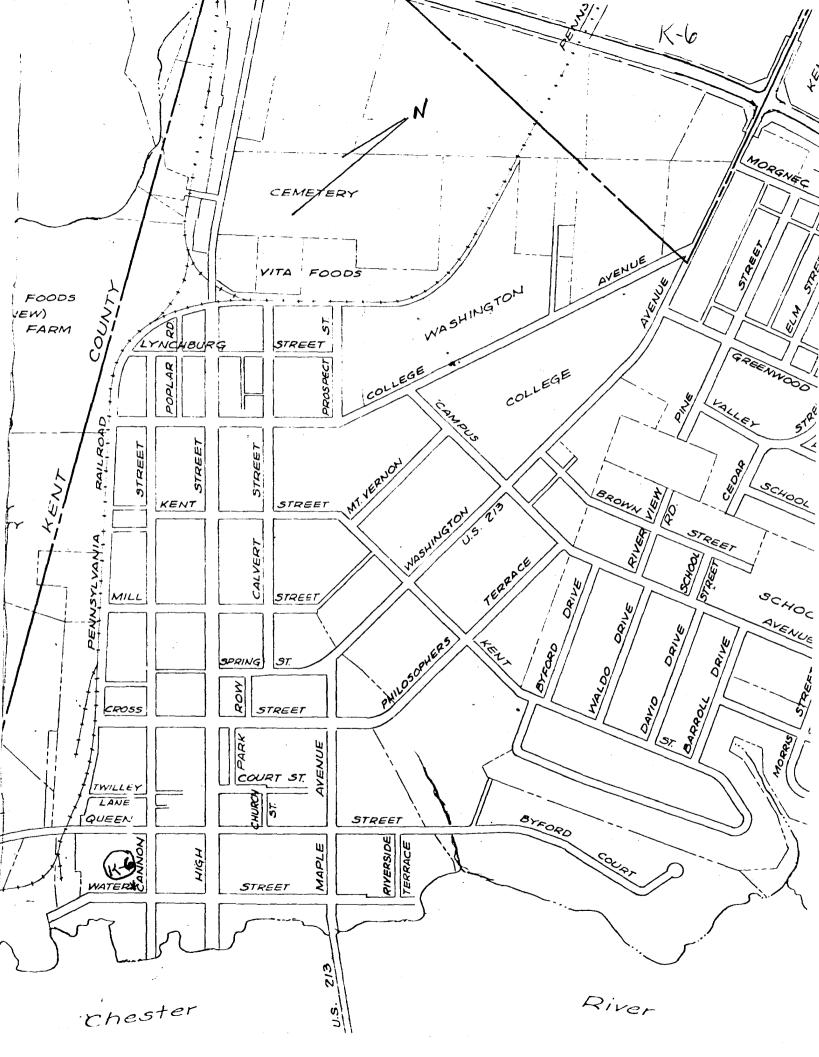
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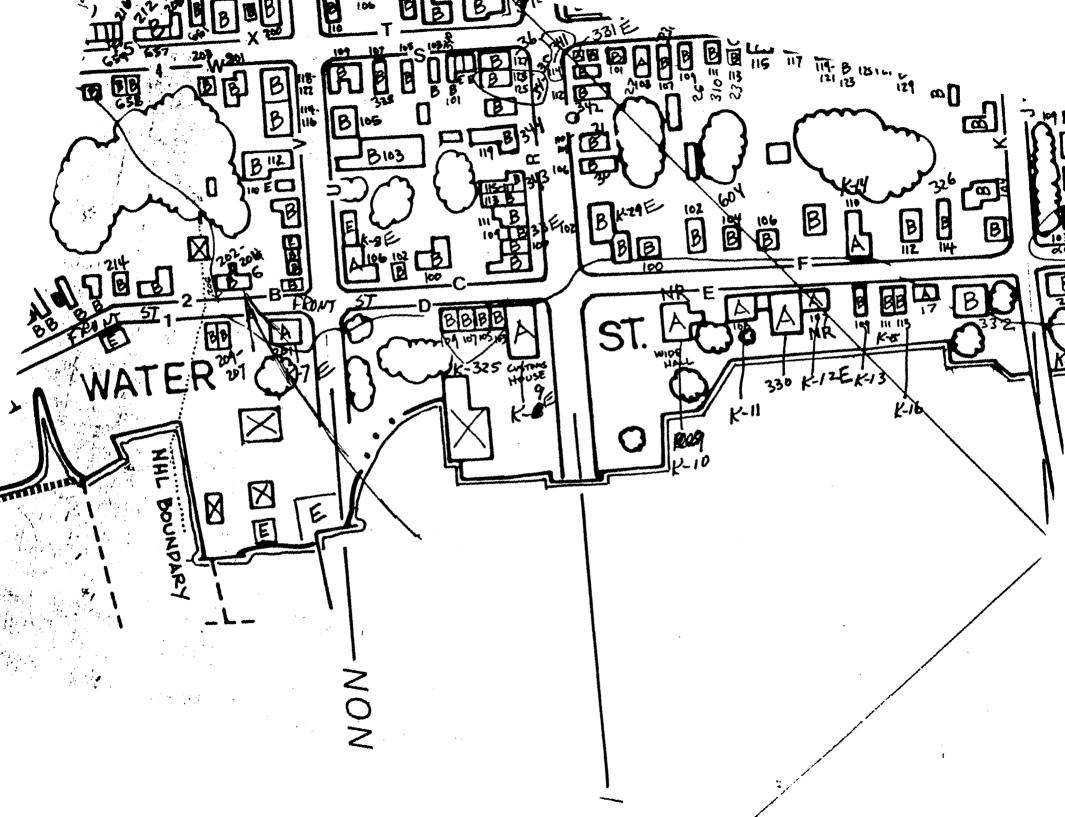
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

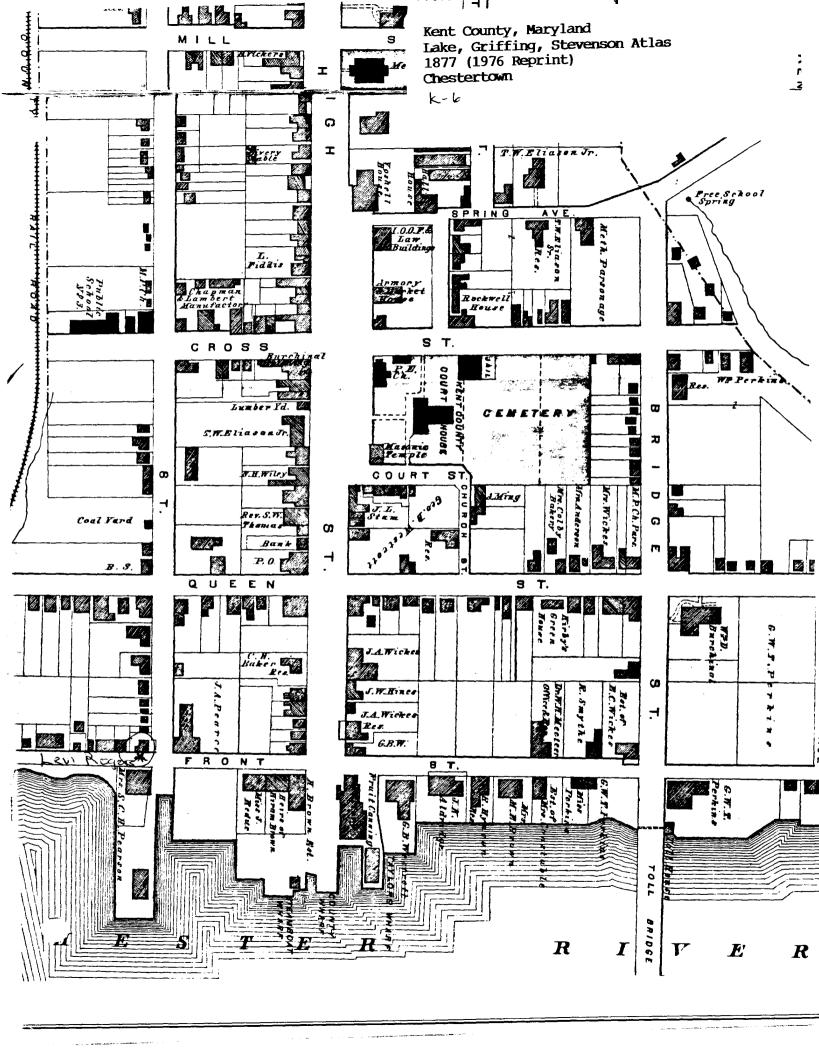
CITY OR TOWN

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438







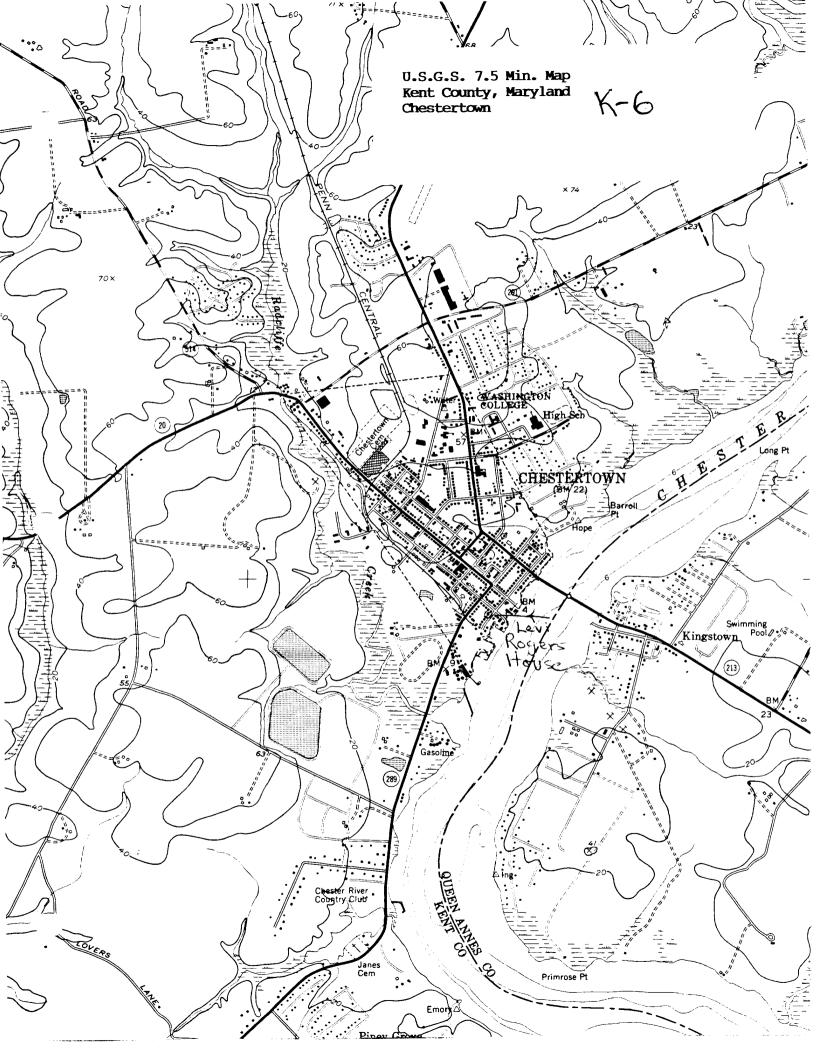




Photo: 2. Neill Rocessing: C. Engstrom